

TONY'S SAD DEBUT

TONY Horseman became the first Wycombe Wanderers player to win international honours on Wednesday evening, since Paul Hodges was capped.

However, Tony's appearance in the Great Britain side was not the dream début every player is entitled to enjoy in his first international.

In fact it came to a short and bitter end when Britain's team manager, Charles Hughes replaced Horseman at half-time with Barking's utility defender, Peter Deadman.

Hughes' decision surprised everyone and seemed totally unjustified. Tony obviously found it difficult to adjust to the pace in the opening stages, but was soon displaying some neat touches in mid-field.

A crowd of over 4,000 packed into Hendon's Claremont-road ground to see Great Britain lose their second leg of the qualifying competition for the 1968 Olympic Games 1-0 to West Germany. However, Britain won the tie on aggregate 2-1 and they now qualify to meet Spain in the next stage of the tournament.

PANIC MOVE

The fast and enterprising German side obviously had Hughes worried. His decision to replace Horseman looked like a panic measure to bolster the defence. Great Britain played only one forward up front for the whole of the second period.

Tony was given little scope to shine, except in mid-field where he used the ball intelligently, but he was always closely watched by Ahmann.

Great Britain's strange 4-4-2 formation left only Gray and Horseman as forwards. Although Tony wore the No. 11 shirt he played in the middle. Horseman won his place in the team when Sutton's Larry Pritchard dropped out of the match with a cracked rib.

Only on two occasions did Tony have the opportunity to reveal his striking ability. First, after 22 minutes, he started a move in mid-field — raced for the return from Gray but keeper Schulte punched the ball off his head. A few minutes before half-time



Horseman had a shot blocked around the 18-yard mark

LACKED SUPPORT

A notable feature of the first half was that on a number of occasions Horseman took up good positions, but his fellow forward, Leytonstone's Ken Gray, was reluctant to part with the ball. Although Great Britain had played badly in the first 45 minutes it was extremely unfair to single out Horseman as the root of the trouble.

Tony spoke about his short sample of international football in the dressing-room during the second half. "The pace is a lot faster than I have experienced before and the tackling much keener."

Explaining his decision to replace Horseman, Hughes commented: "I told the player at half-time he was coming off. I felt as the battle would become more intense in the second period it would be unfair for him to endure it in his first international."

"We had to improve the mid-field support and I was not satisfied with Horseman's workrate. The man I replaced him with was the best player on the field. We, without a doubt, sadly missed Pritchard, who is a great worker."

On the team performance, Hughes added, "We played badly and the boys know it. I was certainly dissatisfied, we were complacent and irresponsible in mid-field."

Wanderers' manager-coach, Barry Darvill, commented: "The reason he pulled Tony off was because he got frightened. It is beyond me why Hughes does not play five forwards."

The only goal of the match came in the 19th minute when Keifler scored with a spectacular overhead kick.